



# Minutes of the NOAA Small Boat Safety Board Meeting January 18, 2007 Via Teleconference



Minutes of Small Boat Safety Board (SBSB) Meeting via Teleconference

Date: Thursday, January 18th, 2006

Time: 10.00 – 12.00 (PT)

Board members present:

- Mark Miller (Small Boat Safety Program Coordinator)
- Dennis Thaute, OLE
- Wayne Hoggard, NMFS (SE Region)
- Dennis Donahue, OAR
- Chad Yoshinaga, NMFS (PI Region)

Board members absent:

- Dana Wilkes, NOS
- Craig Gillis, SECO

Subject Matter Experts:

- None for this meeting

Contractors present:

- Nico Corbijn, BMT Designers & Planners, Inc. PM

Agenda Items discussed:

1. Lt. G. Mark Miller (SBSPC) reported that a significant amount of high level focus had been directed at the Small Boat Safety Program in the prior weeks. Specifically the office of Brigadier General John "Jack" Kelly was actively seeking information pertaining to the Program and a SBSP slide was to be presented at the SES Summit that week. Consequently, the SBSPC was frequently in contact with Line Office senior management concerning various small boat issues.
2. Lt. G. Mark Miller reported that the allocated budget for the Small Boat Safety Program has been approved for 2007 at about \$900K. However, recent budget alignments had reduced the money available for the program to about \$70K. Projects such as the web integrated database and float plan had to be postponed until new funding would be available. The Small Boat Operator training program had to be drastically cut back and will be delayed.
3. Chad Yoshinaga reported that the NOAA one-day component of the three-part Small Boat Operator training program was ready to be Beta-tested.
4. Lt. G. Mark Miller reported on the status of some policies submitted by the SBSB for final review:
  - Inspection Criteria Requirements for Small Boat (including Checklists) presented to NMOA on August 24, 2006, was approved and distributed to the Small Boat Community on January 19, 2007 by the SBSPC. The policy will also be posted on the Small Boat website. It was suggested that the new policy will be phased in to coincide with the existing Small Boat inspection regime. It is also recommended that the inspection checklist is used as a pre-Small Boat Examination tool.



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Credentials of qualified inspectors were included in a follow-on message as part of the introduction of the new Inspection Criteria Requirements for Small Boats.

The credentials/qualifications include:

- Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors (SAMS®)
- National Association of Marine Surveyors (NAMS)
- USCG Marine Inspectors (This does NOT include the CG Auxiliary or US Power Squadron free Vessel Safety Checks)
- OEM certified technician providing service as a manufacturer representative or inspector (e.g. Hull Mfr. representative, Engine Mfr. representative)
- Others to be reviewed on a case by case basis and approved by the Small Boat Safety Board.

- The revised version of NAO 217-103 (presented for approval to NMAO on August 24, 2006), as well as the Personal Flotation Devices policy (presented for approval to NMAO on November 3, 2006) are still under review by NMAO. Lt. Miller will present these policies to NMAO staff in February.

5. The SBSB discussed its direction, strategy, and objectives for 2007. The following goals and targets were proposed:

- Completion and implementation of the revised NAO;
- Completion and full roll-out of the Small Boat Operator Training Program;
- Small Boat Operator and Vessel Operations Coordinator Workshop in the fall 2007;
- Completion and implementation of the NSBP; and
- Prepare inspection training for Vessel Operations Coordinators.

The Plan Of Actions & Milestones was not updated as part of this discussion.

6. As part of the completion process of the NSBP, the SBSB discussed meeting face-to-face in Honolulu, HI, at the end of February. This location was selected in part because of the large Small Boat program under the supervision of NMFS, but also because of the possibility to conduct "train-the-trainer" Surf Operations training.
7. The next SBSB meeting is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 – 11.00AM.